

## Message Text

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62

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 056333

R 291202 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1484

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DURBAN 0144

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: ALUSAF STRIKERS REPLACED BY SOLDIERS

REF: DURBAN 143

1. SUMMARY: STRIKING AFRICAN WORKERS ALUSAF SMELTER ALL SACKED MARCH 28 FOLLOWING THEIR REFUSAL RETURN WORK. 100 DEFENCE FORCE TROOPS REPLACED THEM ALLOW SMELTER CONTINUE OPERATION. STRIKE BREAKING MOVE VERY STRONGLY CONDEMNED BY CHIEF BUTHELEZI AS NEW SIGN OF OPPRESSION AND BY TUCSA LEADER GROBLELAAR AS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT.

2. ALUSAF STRIKE TOOK NEW TWIST MARCH 28 AS COMPANY FIRED ALL 500 STRIKING AFRICAN WORKERS AND REPLACED THEM WITH 100 WHITE DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL. AFRICANS WERE SACKED AFTER THEIR REJECTION COMPANY ULTIMATUM AND REFUSAL RETURN JOBS. STRIKERS INSISTED THEY WOULD NOT RETURN UNTIL THEY HAD HEARD FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KWAZULU COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DLADLA WHO WAS SCHEDULED ADDRESS THEM FRIDAY MORNING. ALUSAF HAS REFUSED NEGOTIATED THROUGH DLADLA WHO WAS INFORMED COMPANY DID NOT WELCOME HIS INTERVENTION.

3. ALUSAF WHICH 51 PERCENT CONTROLLED BY SAG INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ( IDC) MADE REQUEST FOR DEFENCE FORCES IN ORDER KEEP STRATEGIC MILL OPERATING. TROOPS TRANSFERED FROM DURBAN BASED NATAL COMMAND FOR USE ONLY AS MILL OPERATIVES AND NOT TO UNDERTAKE POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES VIS- VIS STRIKERS.

4. REACTING MASS FIRINGS, KWAZULU CHIEF COUNCILLOR GATSHA BUTHELEZI ISSUED STATEMENT BRANDING STRIKE BREAKING ACTION AS CLEAR " OPPRESSION" AFRICAN WORKERS AND FURTHER EVIDENCE UNDERLINING " BLACK POWERLESSNESS". COMPANY ACTION BACKWARD STEP IN SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR RELATIONS, HE SAID. ARTHUR GROBLELAAR, TUCSA GENERAL SECRETARY ALSO CONDEMNED USE DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL AS STRIKE BREAKERS WHERE ESSENTIAL SERVICES NOT AFFECTED. HE WARNED THAT IF THIS NEW SAG TACTIC TO STAMP OUT STRIKES IT COULD LEAD TO VERY DANGEROUS LABOR CONFRONTATION.

5. COMMENT: THIS FIRST RECENT USE DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL AS STRIKE BREAKERS AND MAY INDEED SIGNAL NEW HARDLINE APPROACH RE CONTINUING STRIKE ACTIONS BY AFRICAN WORKERS. BUT, SAG APPARENTLY PREFERS USE ECONOMIC PRESSURE RATHER THAN POLICE ACTIONS AS MAIN WEAPON HOLD AFRICAN WORKERS AND THEIR DEMANDS IN CHECK.  
HOLMES

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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